



"LIBERTY OR DEATH."

Prairie City, Kansas, July 16, 1857.

The Topeka Convention.

We have most cheering news from Topeka. It was a unanimous decision of the convention to still adhere to the Topeka Constitution, and to re-submit it to the people for ratification at the August election. Every district was fully represented and the strictest harmony of feeling prevailed among the members throughout its session. WALTER OAKLEY was nominated for Secretary of State, Judge CONWAY for Supreme Judge, and M. J. PARROT for Delegate to Congress.

The efforts of Governor WALKER to distract the Free State party have been exercised in vain. The efforts of professed Free State journals to divide us have also proved futile. We never were so well united as we are at the present time. The unanimous sentiment of the people throughout the Territory is to be admitted into the Union under the Topeka Constitution, or none. Kansas is safe!

We regret that we are unable to publish the proceedings of the convention in this week's issue. We shall publish them next week. We have room only for the resolutions:

WHEREAS, At the first election of a Territorial Legislature held in Kansas, the government was wrested from the hands of the people and an usurpation substituted in its place; and

WHEREAS, Said usurpation is still forced upon the people of Kansas, and they are thereby deprived of all the rights of American citizens, therefore be it Resolved by the Free State men in Convention assembled:

I. That the Topeka Constitution and the State Government originated in a public necessity, that subsequent events have proved the wisdom and justice of that movement, and that present circumstances render it an imperative demand of justice, common sense and patriotism, that it be unwaveringly maintained and supported;

II. That the Topeka Constitution is the first and only choice of the Free State men of Kansas—that we look to our admission as a State under it as the surest and only method of regaining our lost rights and that all our efforts as a party in whatever direction shall be subservient to that end;

III. That Congress will consult the wishes of a very large majority of the inhabitants of Kansas by immediately admitting her as a State under the Topeka Constitution.

IV. That the Free State men of Kansas now as heretofore utterly deny the validity of the Territorial Legislature—that they still recognize it as the creature of fraud and violence, and that they acknowledge neither the validity nor the binding force of its enactments;

V. That the recent vote for delegates to a Constitutional Convention has demonstrated to the world that the pro-Slavery faction is a "miserable minority" of the people of Kansas; that an attempt to frame a Constitution by delegates thus elected would be a gross outrage upon the people, and that the admission of Kansas under a Constitution so framed, unless first submitted to a fair vote of the bona fide residents, would be an act of injustice and despotism so flagrant and alarming as to justify her people in a resort to the extreme measures for the protection of their rights;

VI. That the Free State party of Kansas is emphatically a peace party; that we deprecate agitation; that now as ever we seek to avoid all occasion of collision with the authorities of the United States, and that all we ask is simple justice and the enjoyment of the rights, guaranteed to us as American citizens by the Constitution of our common country;

VII. That we urge upon the Free State men of Kansas the necessity of a thorough organization for the August election, and that as far as possible a full vote be polled at that election;

VIII. That we recommend to the Governor the propriety of submitting the Topeka Constitution to a full vote of all bona fide residents of Kansas at the August election;

IX. That the Free State Central Committee is hereby instructed to have 20,000 copies of the State Constitution of Kansas printed in English, and 5,000 in German for circulation throughout the Territory, and that the Free State papers be requested to publish it in their columns at an early day.

WHEREAS, Gov. Walker, in his speech at Topeka, as reported in the

"Kansas Statesman" of June 9th, holds the following language: "In October next, not under the act of the late Territorial Legislature, but under the laws of Congress, you, the whole people of Kansas have a right to elect a delegate to Congress and to elect a Territorial Legislature," and

WHEREAS, Gov. Walker has on various occasions used similar language; and

WHEREAS, Under the above decision "the whole people of Kansas," may participate in an election for Delegate to Congress and for members of the Territorial Legislature imposed upon them by fraud and by force, therefore resolved

X. That we recommend to the people of Kansas that they assemble in mass convention at Grasshopper Falls on the last Wednesday in August, to take such action as may be necessary with regard to that election;

XI. Finally, that standing upon the eternal principles of justice and truth, contending only for what is right, we, here, to-day, renew our fealty to the great cause in which we are engaged and pledge to each other our firm, united and persevering efforts for the final triumph of Freedom in Kansas.

The Election in August.

On the first Monday in August is to be held in every voting precinct in the Territory, an election for State officers, for Delegates to Congress, and also to vote on the Topeka Constitution. This election is of vital importance to us. It behooves us to use every exertion to swell the vote on this constitution to as large a number as possible, and we trust that the people of every voting precinct in the Fourth District will thoroughly organize and complete arrangements to secure every voter.

The places for voting in this district are Prairie City, Centropolis, Peoria, Stanton, Omro, Allen's, Grant's, and Greeley's.

Let this fact be remembered, and let the people of these places take immediate measures to procure tickets and to perfect every necessary arrangement to secure a full vote.

Organize! Organize!

Change of Numbers and Boundaries.

By a recent change in the boundaries of districts, Prairie City and Centropolis have been thrown into the fifteenth District, which is bounded as follows: Commencing at the intersection of township line between 14 and 15, with range line between 21 and 22, thence west to range line between 16 and 17, thence south to township line between 15 and 16, thence west to range line between 13 and 14, thence south to township line between 19 and 20, thence east to range line between 21 and 22, thence north to place of beginning.

App. 1 Senator, 3 Representatives. Precincts—Grant's house, Peoria City, Omro, Allen's, Ottawa Jones, Prairie City, Centropolis, Stanton.

A Visit to the Cottonwood.

Major ALEXANDER, GIDEON ELIAS and O. P. Willett, have just returned from a trip to the Cottonwood. They speak of the country in that vicinity in the most glowing terms, and state that plenty of timber claims are yet unclaimed there. They surveyed out a town about twenty miles above Emporia, which is said to be blessed with an excellent water privilege. They have named their new town Cottonwood Falls. We shall speak of this town again in some future number.

Nominating Convention.

It will be observed by the advertisement in another column that there is to be a Mass Convention of the people of the Fourth District held at the south side of the California crossing at the Marias de Cygnes, on Saturday, July 25th, to nominate Senators and Representatives for the State Legislature. It is hoped that every township will be fully represented.

The Richmond Examiner goes for a statute expelling all Yankee peddlers from the State of Virginia. It says "the safety of each family demands this; the well-being and happiness of the State demands it; the highest good of all classes in the Southern States requires it." We fear that the editor has purchased a leaky tin pan. We recommend him, at any rate, to read the Vicar of Wakefield attentively on the subject of green spectacles.

Governor Walker vs. Lawrence.

Governor WALKER has discovered a mare's nest. The people of Lawrence, getting sick and disgusted of being without legal restraint, organized a city charter. As they had no business to apply to the bogus Territorial Legislature to grant them a charter, and as our State government refused to grant them one, they deemed it inexpedient owing to certain contingencies, to allow organization of municipal and local governments, the people of Lawrence resolved to adopt one for themselves. That they had a right to do this, Governor WALKER himself will not question. He knows, as well the people whose rights have been so ruthlessly trampled upon, that the Territorial Legislature, which he endeavors so emphatically to assure us is recognized by Congress and the National Executive, was imposed upon us by means that stand unparalleled in the records of history for stupendous frauds and brutal and inhuman violence. These people who are so audaciously deprived of every vestige of their rights, are citizens of the United States—citizens of this free republic—descendants of those men whose blood flowed on the heights of Bunker Hill, on the plains of Saratoga, at Yorktown, and other memorable places, that these people might enjoy the sweets of Freedom.

Does Governor Walker imagine that people inheriting the spirit of the patriots of '76, can be trampled under foot like dogs? Does he for a moment entertain the idea that the people of Kansas will ever recognize the bogus Territorial laws? If he does, he certainly cannot base his opinions from our past conduct.—Governor WALKER may cast into our faces as often as he pleases, the fact of his deriving his authority from Mr. BUCHANAN to make us submit to the bogus laws; it will avail him nothing. If he can take no other course than that which he threatens to do so long as he remains Governor of the Territory, then let him resign.—There is no excuse for him to be continually throwing the responsibility of his actions upon the National Administration. Governor GEARY saw that it was impossible for a Governor receiving his appointment from the Administration to mete out justice to the people of the Territory; so he resigned. Gov. WALKER can do the same. If Governor WALKER endeavors to carry out his policy, there will be such an earthquake in this Union as will shake it from its very centre; and the responsibility will rest upon him.

Governor Walker knows that the conduct of the Lawrence people, which he denounces as treason, is in perfect accordance with every principle of equity. He knows their situation, knows their wants, knows that it is impossible for them, so long as they are possessed with the least vestige of the spirit of men, to institute any other course to secure them than that which they have adopted. He knows very well that if a man, as high-spirited and as susceptible to the honors appertaining to the dignities of men, as himself, were placed in a similar position, he would do the same. What can be his reason, then, for resorting to such desperate and tyrannical proceedings as would have been discreditable to even George the III., which he threatens to do in his *ukase*, which we publish in another column, if the people of Lawrence will not desist from their undertaking? We think his conduct can easily be accounted for: Governor WALKER is a man small in stature, and like the generality of little men vested in robes of authority, feels with due importance the dignity of his position. He came to Kansas with as great a flourish of trumpets and with as much pomp and circumstance as the Emperor of Morocco assumes when on parade in his dominions, and expected to find the people of Kansas as ready to bow on their faces before him as the inhabitants of Morocco to their Emperor.—He thought that the people of Kansas were pretty effectually "subdued" by this time, and that they would be happy to receive and recognize so distinguished a personage as himself to rescue them from the brink of perdition. He thought that the potent power of gold and the tickling and seductive qualities of flattery,

would enable him to barter away their principles and to bring them entirely subservient to his will. He was mistaken. The people recognized in him a tool of a tyrannical government, which they abhor with as much acerbity as that same government once entertained against Great Britain. They repudiated him and spurned his offers with contempt—and now he seeks revenge. Read his manifesto, O ye admirers of the great Pacificator! Green be the memory of Herod and Nero! Herod, Nero and Walker!—a noble trio!

Latest from Lawrence.

Our latest advices from Lawrence inform us that Gov. Walker had arrived there with about 250 U. S. Troops and were encamped near the city. The people appear to treat the matter with cool indifference, and indeed regard it as a burlesque. Parodies on his *ukase*, appealing to the people to refrain from removing the carcasses of dead horses, cats, dogs and tadpoles, for fear the example may be imitated by other towns, and thereby overthrow the Territorial Government, have made their appearance. His august Majesty is in a great predicament. His position is very similar to that of a certain Border Ruffian whom we met in St. Louis last fall, who started to come Kansas in Buford's "chivalric" company, but who deserted before he reached here. Says he, "I felt as if I was in a d—d queer fix. I was in a quandary whether I had better go to Kansas and be called an ass and a fool by my friends for venturing into such an expedition and getting thrashed, which I knew we would be, or to flunk, and for that be called a coward by them. However, as well as considering discretion the better part of valor, I used with it a little common sense, and so I moved!" The Governor begins to manifest a disposition to "mosey." He says he has been misinformed about the matter! Ha! Ha!

We have the best assurance that the people of Lawrence will not shrink one tittle from the position they have taken. Stick to it! You are men. If the Pacificator, or any one else attempt to molest you in your private affairs, and you are in want of assistance to aid you in keeping them aloof, call on Prairie City and you will immediately have at your service two hundred more men.

Reaction in the Sugar Market.

It is said that the effort of the speculators to raise the price of sugar to exorbitant rates is about to react.—The increased prices have brought large supplies—no less than fifty-four vessels having arrived in New York since the first of June with entire cargoes of sugar and molasses, and immense amounts are now held on speculation, which sooner or later must come into market. In Portland, recently, large amounts of sugar and twenty-five hundred hogsheads of molasses had been received.

The market in New York and Boston is inactive; buyers will pay the prices which holders demand.

Women Yoked to a Plough.

In Scotland, recently, the attention of the railway passengers, while the trains were passing through Bishop-ton, were attracted to two females yoked to a plough, which was guided by an ungallant male, who held the stilt. The only way of accounting for this eccentric proceeding is the suggestion that the land, which is newly reclaimed, is too light to admit of horses being employed.

A bachelor acquaintance of ours, who is an audacious slanderer of the refined sex, says that he never heard of woman being used to such good advantage before—the miserable old cup!

Mr. FINDLEY is making preparations to erect a cabinet shop near our office. If business of that kind won't pay in this vicinity, it will not be owing to small demand for furniture.

The Trustees of Prairie City lately contracted for the digging of a well in the center of Eden Park.—The work has already commenced in good earnest.

JOHN GRAHAM has a house for sale. See his advertisement.

Fallacy, to suppose that a man can make money without advertising.

Questions Answered.

A friend of ours lately received a letter from an eastern acquaintance of his, containing several interrogatories, which he has given us to answer, hoping that the information may be of interest to our eastern readers; especially those contemplating on emigrating to Kansas:

1st. What is the number of inhabitants in your nearest town?

2d. Is there much vacant lands in your vicinity; and what does prairie and timber generally sell at?

In reply to these two questions, we would refer the querist, and all others interested, to the advertisement of the Prairie City Association, on our fourth page, where they will be found fully and explicitly answered.

3d. Your general view of the country for health, agriculture, &c.

There is no country in the world more healthy. This fact is admitted by every body who is acquainted with Kansas climate. Intermittent fevers and the ague, diseases which exist in all new prairie countries, prevail here to some extent among the timber and bottom prairies, but on table lands, and even in the bottom prairies, where wholesome water can be procured, diseases of this nature are rare. The climate is mild and agreeable, especially in the summer season. Cool, bracing, and refreshing breezes, made fragrant and salubrious by the aromatic prairie flowers through which they sweep along, continually prevail. During the present hot weather, when mercury stands in the nineties, there is such a stiff and cool breeze, that people can work out of doors with nearly as much comfort as in the spring or fall. In the particular vicinity of Prairie City, there has never been a case of sickness of any kind whatever, since its settlement.

In regard to agriculture, we have to say that it is the safest and the best business followed here, as well as elsewhere. The soil is similar to that of Missouri and Illinois, and the same articles of produce of these States are equally as well adapted to Kansas soil, and can be produced in as great abundance. We think in one respect Kansas soil exceeds that of Illinois. It certainly can stand the drouth better. This season has been an unusually dry one, six weeks having elapsed since we were favored with rain, and yet corn and other crops look as fresh and promising as one can desire. We are assured by farmers of three years' experience in Kansas farming, that no soil in the States can stand the drouth as well as that of Kansas.

4th. What opinion have you in reference to the future political prospects of the Territory—will Freedom or Slavery ultimately prevail?

Oh, Freedom! There is no longer any doubt about that. That question is effectually settled now. The Democratic party, the National Administration, the "chivalry of the sunny South," the Missouri Border Ruffians, and all other parties, clans, cliques and people of like ilk, have utterly despaired of establishing the "peculiar institution of the South" in Kansas, and are shrinking from their nefarious schemes in disgust.—

What we are fighting about now, is, to see who shall have the honor of making this a free State—the people who endeavored to establish slavery here but failed, or the people who frustrated their design. Kansas is in no more danger of being cursed with slavery than Massachusetts.

5th. What distance are you from the Missouri river; and what is your nearest point?

The nearest point on the river is Kansas City, in Missouri, which is about forty-five miles from here.—Our means of getting there is by the Santa Fe road, which is the largest and best in the Territory.

Mr. Wm. SOWERS says, in our advertising column that he "ain't dead yet." Well, no one who knows him, and who has seen him manifest such a lively interest in the growth and prosperity of Prairie City, ever believed that he was dead. Mr. SOWERS is an excellent mechanic, an honorable business man and a gentleman.—People intrusting business with Mr. SOWERS, will be satisfied that it is faithfully executed.

We observe that Mr. HIRAN McALLISTER is burning Limestone, on his claim. He intends to sell lime at twenty cents per bushel.

Our Country.

The greatest cataract in the world is the Falls of Niagara, where the waters accumulate from the great upper lakes, forming a river three quarters of a mile in width, are suddenly contracted and plunging over the rocks in two columns, to the depth of one hundred and sixty feet.

The greatest cave in the world is the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, where one can make a voyage on the waters of the subterranean river, and catch fish without eyes.

The greatest river is the Mississippi, four thousand one hundred miles in length. Its name is derived from an Indian word, meaning "the father of waters."

The largest valley in the world is the valley of the Mississippi. It contains five hundred thousand square miles, and is one of the most prolific regions on the globe.

The largest lake in the world is Lake Superior, four hundred and thirty miles long.

The greatest natural bridge in the world is that over Cedar Creek, in Virginia. It extends across a chasm of eighty feet in width and two hundred and fifty feet deep, at the bottom of which a creek flows.

The greatest mass of solid iron ore in the world is the Iron Mountain of Missouri. It is three hundred feet high, and two miles in circuit.

The longest railroad in the world is the Central Railroad of Illinois, which is seven hundred and thirty-one miles long—cost, fifteen millions of dollars.

The greatest number of miles of railroad, in proportion to the surface, of any country in the world, is in Massachusetts, which has over one mile to every ten square miles of its area.

The greatest number of clock manufactures in the world, is turned out by the small State of Connecticut.

The largest number of whale-ships in the world is sent by Nantucket and New Bedford.

The greatest grain port in the world is Chicago.

The largest aqueduct in the world is the Croton aqueduct in New York. It is forty and a half miles long, and cost twelve and a half millions of dollars.

A Melancholy but Deserving Sell.

Two men were run over by a train of cars on the Harrisburgh and Lancaster railroad, near Highspire, Pa., on the 3d inst., and both killed. A large amount of bank notes were found on their persons, and they were supposed by the people of Highspire to be men of property, and they went to considerable expense in getting handsome coffins, &c. The bank bills found upon their persons proved to be all counterfeits, and it has since been discovered that the deceased were the leaders of a band of counterfeiters and burglars. It is believed they committed a robbery in Middleton the very night before they were killed. So the people who supposed they had been worshipping Mammon, were deservedly sold by the soulless carcasses of two thieves.

WAR!—Our readers will undoubtedly be startled by observing these thrilling words in our advertising columns; but upon reading a little farther, they will see that SHONK & MEWHINNEY have a yarn to spin.—"SAM MACK" has retired from the field and surrendered his place to Mr. Wm. MEWHINNEY. As they say in their advertisement, they certainly are making preparations to do business on a grander scale than has ever yet been done in this region of country. They receive their goods direct from St. Louis, and consequently are enabled to sell their goods lower than heretofore, and we observe they are knocking down prices already.—Good. You are engaged in an honorable warfare, gentlemen.

John HAMES, a man 134 years old is now living in Murry Co., Georgia. He migrated to South Carolina from his home in Virginia over a hundred years ago—was with Gates in Camden, and with Morgan at Cowpens.

Toil and labor! of the hands—of the heart! Toil and labor! Heaven's twin messengers to man—earth's greatest benefactors! Say not they are evils: 'tis treason to Nature—'tis impiety to God.